REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-25 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 25 are rejected. Claims 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23 and 24 are objected to.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Abstract is objected to because the Abstract as filed is longer than 150 words. The Abstract is amended herein and is now less than 150 words.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,026,464 by Cohen, hereinafter referred to as the "Cohen" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 25 are not anticipated by Cohen in view of the following rationale.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

> A method for providing efficient use of a transmit engine in transmitting packet directing information, said method comprising the steps of:
> a) loading a first memory with packet directing information, said first memory adapted to provide information to drive a transmit engine to direct packets therefrom;
> b) provided said loading of said step a) is completed, marking said first memory as busy and directing said packets according to said packet directing information; and
> c) provided said first memory is marked as busy, directing additional packet directing information to a second memory such that said second memory is adapted to be loaded with said additional packet directing information without interrupting said first memory, said second memory adapted to provide information to drive said transmit engine to direct packets therefrom.

Independent Claims 8, 15 and 22 recite similar limitations. Claim 7 that depends from independent Claim 1, Claim 14 that depends from independent Claim 8, Claim 21 that depends from independent Claim 15, and Claim 25 that depends from independent Claim 22 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Cohen and the claimed invention are very different. Applicants understand Cohen to teach a memory control system and a method for controlling access to a global memory. In particular, Cohen teaches that

access to memory banks of a memory subsystem are controlled by a memory controller (Abstract).

With reference to Figure 1 of Cohen, memory system 12 including a memory subsystem 20 having multiple memory banks 70 is shown. Specifically, memory controller 18 is operable to check the state of a particular addressed memory bank 70 (col. 3, lines 48-51). If the targeted memory bank is idle, memory controller 18 activates it, and data is read from or written to memory subsystem 70 (col. 3, lines 51-55). Specifically, Cohen does not teach, describe or suggest the data as including packet directing information, as claimed. Moreover, Cohen does not teach, describe or suggest "directing said packets according to said packet directing information," as claimed. On the contrary, Cohen is silent as to the use of a transmit engine, packets, packet directing information, or directing packets at all.

Furthermore, Cohen teaches that access requests are received for specific addressed memory banks 70 of memory subsystem 20 (col. 3, lines 48-50). In particular, if an addressed memory bank 70 is busy, the access request is completed when the specific memory bank 70 becomes free (col. 3, lines 63-65). The access request is not directed to another free memory bank 70. Rather, the access request is queued, and is processed when the addressed memory bank 70 becomes free (col. 3, line 63 through col. 4, line 4).

In contrast, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards "[a] method for providing efficient use of_a transmit engine in transmitting packet directing information," as claimed. A first memory is loaded with packet directing information and is "adapted to provide information to drive a transmit engine to direct packets therefrom" and "directing said packets according to said packet directing information," as claimed (emphasis added). In particular, the claimed embodiments recite the limitations of a transmit engine, packet directing information, and "directing said packets according to said packet directing information." With reference to Figures 3A and 3B of the present application, a process 300 for providing efficient use of a transmit engine is shown. At step 310, a packet is placed on linked list A. At step 315, linked list A is marked as busy and the transmit engine begins transmitting the packets of linked list A. At step 320, all packets sent to the transmit engine while linked list A is busy are transmitted to linked list B (page 11, line 12 through page 12, line 13).

Applicants respectfully assert that Cohen in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest a method for providing efficient use of a transmit engine in transmitting packet directing information, as claimed. In contrast, Cohen teaches a memory control system for controlling access to memory banks of a memory subsystem.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does Cohen teach, disclose or suggest the claimed embodiments of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, 15 and 22, that these claims overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and are thus in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Cohen also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claim 7 that depends from independent Claim 1, Claim 14 that depends from independent Claim 8, Claim 21 that depends from independent Claim 15, and Claim 25 that depends from independent Claim 22. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7, 14, 21 and 25 also overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claim 22 also overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as including subject matter that was indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Specifically, Claim 22 recites the limitation of after completing step c), marking the first memory as free after completing the directing of the packet and marking the second memory as busy. This subject matter was indicated as allowable in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter as supplied by the Examiner.
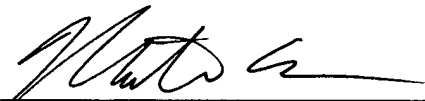
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-25 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 28 Feb , 2005

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